

2021 Reading Together



**Jacqueline
Woodson**

SAVE THE DATE!

Meet the Author Online:
**Wednesday,
March 10, 2021**

3 pm: Craft Talk

**7 pm Keynote:
The Power of Story**

Registration information
to come soon.

With hopes of bringing our community closer together in the midst of the social isolation brought on by COVID-19, Kalamazoo Public Library has decided to approach *Reading Together* a little differently for 2021.

See page 3 for more details.

CURBSIDE KPL

Curbside-only Service

As you are aware, there has been a significant increase of COVID-19 in Kalamazoo and surrounding counties. For this reason, KPL has prioritized the health and safety of our staff and patrons and temporarily closed in-person library services to help mitigate the spread of the virus in the community.

On Monday, November 23, KPL launched Curbside KPL, our curbside delivery service. Curbside KPL enables library patrons to pick up holds from the safety of their vehicle or via walk-up service. **Please note, masks will be required for curbside pick-up service.**

Locations and Hours

Curbside KPL Service will be available at the following locations:

Central: Monday–Friday | 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Oshtemo Branch: Monday–Friday | 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Eastwood Branch: Monday–Friday | 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Alma Powell Branch & Washington Square Branch are closed until further notice.

How to Use Curbside KPL

Step 1: Browse our catalog on kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800 to place a hold on items you wish to check out, and indicate which location you wish to pick them up at (Central, Oshtemo, or Eastwood).

Step 2: KPL will send you an email, text, or phone call, when your items are available for pick-up.

Step 3: When you arrive for pick-up, text or call the number posted on the sign and follow the directions. Have your library card handy, we will ask for the last 4 numbers of your account. A KPL staff person will deliver your checkouts contact-free to your car or via walk-up. As a precaution, **masks are required** for curbside pick-up.

(continued on page 2 ...)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Curbside KPL	2
KPL Mobile Library	3
Employment Resources.	3
The Great Blizzard of 1978	4
Children's Programming	5
Teen Programming	6
Adult Programming	7
Director's Note.	8

KPL Locations and Hours

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**Alma Powell Branch &
Washington Square Branch**
are closed until further notice.

* All locations are closed on Sundays.

For more information about resources and services, please visit kpl.gov

KPL Events

In order to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, KPL **will not be offering in-person programming until further notice**. We are, however, always adding new online events for all ages. Some highlights are featured on the following pages. Visit kpl.gov to view the complete and up-to-date list of programs scheduled this winter.

Curbside KPL Quick Tips

- You will need to know your library card number to pick up your holds. It is on the back of your KPL Card, except for OneCard.
- You have 14 days to pick up your materials.
- Due dates for checked-out library materials are not affected.
- Dropboxes are open for returns at all KPL locations except the Alma Powell Branch.
- MelCat is still available with Curbside KPL.



Curbside KPL FAQ

Why are you moving to curbside service? Due to the significant increase in COVID-19 cases in Kalamazoo and surrounding counties, KPL is prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and patrons by temporarily closing in-person library service to help mitigate the spread of the virus in the community.

Why is curbside service offered at only three KPL locations?


In order to provide the most effective service while prioritizing the health and safety of our staff, KPL found it necessary to reduce its operational footprint and limit staffing interactions, yet still be able to offer library services geographically across the library district.

When do you plan to reopen for in-person service? KPL recognizes that temporarily stopping in-person library services presents a hardship to many. We appreciate your patience and willingness to adjust to the changes we are making to help keep our staff and patrons healthy. We look forward to returning to in-person library service as soon as it is safe to do so, and timing will be based on improved and sustained local conditions.

While KPL's physical buildings will be closed for in-person service, our online branch kpl.gov is always open! KPL offers a large variety of **digital options** including online **library card signup** and access to a huge catalog of **eBooks**, **eAudiobooks**, **eVideos**, **eMusic**, and **eMagazines**.

KPL card holders can also access digital services such as **Lynda** which offers thousands of videos on professional development, skill building, and how-to instruction. Novice crafters and advanced artists can begin a new hobby or master a new challenge with **Creativebug**. Students can access **homework help** and other learning/resource **databases** online. Learn more about KPL's eLearning options at kpl.gov/elearn.

Also, KPL programs such as author visits, Michigan history presentations, concerts, and more are available for your enjoyment at any time online on **KPL TV**.

All KPL service updates will be posted on our website kpl.gov and on social media platforms **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**. 

2021 Reading Together

picture books, to middle grade and young adult fiction, to adult novels. That is why we have chosen *National Book Award* winner, 2020 MacArthur Fellow, and bestselling author Jacqueline Woodson.

Instead of choosing one title, aimed primarily at adult readers, we have selected one author, whose body of work spans all ages, from

About the Author: Woodson has written more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children, and has recently published her first adult novels as well. Among her many accolades, she is the 2020 recipient of the *Hans Christian Andersen Award*, recognizing lifelong achievement in children's literature, and was named the 2018 Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress. She is a four-time *Newbery Honor* recipient, a three-time *National Book Award* finalist, and a two-time *Coretta Scott King Award* winner. ▲

More information can be found at readingtogether.us



KPL Mobile Library

This past July, KPL was excited to receive our brand-new mobile library vehicle. Prior to COVID-19, KPL had big plans to roll out the Mobile Library in the summer of 2020. Out of concern for the health of our patrons and staff, KPL has temporarily parked our mobile library plans and are using the vehicle only for deliveries. Once it is safe to do so, we look forward to getting on the road with the KPL Mobile Library and bringing library services to areas in our service district who needs them most. Updates on MBL service will be posted on kpl.gov/mbi. We hope to see you soon! ▲

Digital Job Search and Resume Services at KPL

The pandemic has presented many challenges for the Kalamazoo community, the most critical being job loss. If you are currently searching, KPL has many digital services that may be helpful. You will need an active KPL card to access some of these services. If you don't have one, you can sign up online at kpl.gov/getcarded. ▲

LearningExpress Library is an online database with a careers section that includes a variety of resources and articles about anything job-related. Available at kpl.gov/databases.

- The **career preparation** section includes information about different careers, a job search and workplace skills section, and test prep guides/exams for careers that require licensing.
- The **job and career accelerator** includes tools to help build a resume and create a cover letter.

Reference USA is a business directory that has company information and job listings posted on Indeed. It also allows you to search by industry and geographical areas so users can find jobs near them. Available at kpl.gov/databases.

Oneplace @KPL: if you are searching for local jobs in the nonprofit field, Oneplace @KPL has an employment section with up-to-date information about available nonprofit jobs near you. Learn more at kpl.gov/oneplace/employment.

Jobs @KPL: Check out KPL's available job opportunities at kpl.gov/jobs.



The Great Blizzard of 1978 by Keith Howard

Just imagine...you've arrived at home and now you need to dig down through a foot of snow just to reach the lock on your front door. Two years before Kalamazoo's devastating 1980 tornado, a storm of a different sort brought much of the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions to a standstill. People still refer to this historic winter storm as the Great Blizzard of 1978.

Wednesday the 25th of January began like most mid-winter days in Michigan with calm winds, cloudy skies, and typically cold temperatures. But late that evening the snow began to fall and the winds picked up. By the early morning hours of January 26, it was clear this was going to be no ordinary snowstorm.

Come dawn, temperatures were in the 20s as relentless snowfall was being driven by hurricane-force winds. Wind chill factors plunged well below zero. Many businesses remained closed for the day, save for a few grocery and convenience stores. Classes were cancelled at most area schools, including Western Michigan University.

Strong sustained winds out of the northwest caused extensive drifting. Most east-west roads were soon blocked, including I-94 where dozens of stranded motorists took refuge inside nearby Wings Stadium. Thursday night temperatures dropped into the teens and the wind chill plummeted to 60 below.

By Friday, Downtown Kalamazoo resembled a Wild West ghost town, where wind-driven snow took the place of sand and tumbleweeds. Huge drifts blocked Michigan Avenue as street lights and signs swayed wildly in the wind. Not a soul was to be seen on the otherwise busy streets and sidewalks. Except for the howling wind and an occasional snowmobile, the world was strangely silent.

Cars everywhere were completely buried beneath massive drifts. Vehicle travel was out of the question and walking was difficult at best, at times nearly impossible. Those who needed provisions ventured out cautiously, many using snowshoes and cross-country skis.

News coverage during the storm was scarce. Video equipment was heavy and awkward during the pre-home video era, so television coverage was limited. *Kalamazoo Gazette* did not publish for three days, so many area residents had no idea what their world looked like.

After days of relentless snowfall and driving winds, Saturday morning brought a glimpse of the sun and affirmation that the storm had passed. Bus service returned and the Kalamazoo airport reopened, but citizens were encouraged to stay off the roads so the snow removal process could begin.

The Great Blizzard of 1978 is often remembered as one of the worst blizzards in US history. The third lowest non-tropical atmospheric pressure ever recorded in the mainland United States occurred as the storm passed over southeast Michigan. The National Weather Service called it a storm "of unprecedented magnitude," a winter storm of the most severe grade.

In the end, the Kalamazoo area saw more than two feet of snow, driven by days of northwesterly winds that reached 60 mph or more. Massive drifts up to seventeen feet deep in places brought much of the region to a complete standstill. Several local businesses saw their roofs collapse under the weight of the snow, including a portion of the West Main Mall. Temperatures stayed in the teens long after the storm had passed so the snow persisted. Weeks later the area was still digging out. ▲

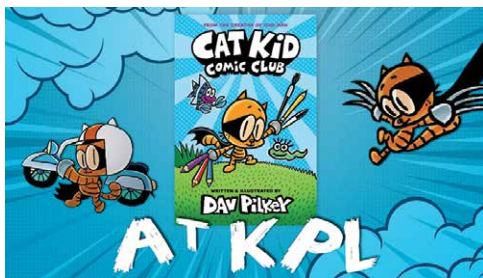


More articles like this can be found at: kpl.gov/kalamazoo-history



Virtual Events for CHILDREN & ALL AGES

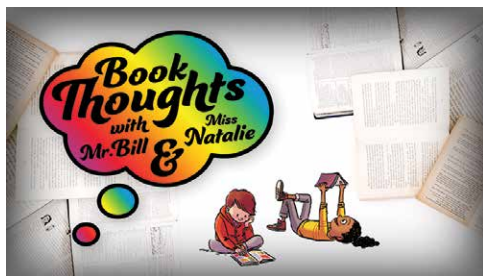
Grades K-5



Cat Kid Comic Club at KPL

Tuesday, December 1

Get a copy of *Cat Kid Comic Club* plus comic making materials to keep! Then, dream up your own stories and unleash your own creativity with some inspiration from Li'l Petey, Flippy, and Molly! **Register online, then pick-up your book and materials curbside starting on December 1st!**



Book Thoughts with Mr. Bill and Miss Natalie

Tuesdays, December 1, January 5 & February 2 | 7-7:15 pm | KPL TV

Listen to a conversation with Mr. Bill and Miss Natalie talking about exciting new books for all ages in KPL's Children's and Teen collections.

Bookworms

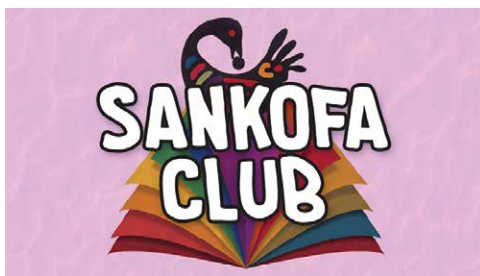
Saturdays, December 12, January 16 & February 13 | 3 pm | Zoom

Join us online for this book club aimed at readers in 3rd through 5th grade. Books are available a month prior to the discussion date. **Register** to receive your copy of the book—pick up at OSH, or provide your address to have the book mailed—and the Zoom invite. Read the book, and join us on the date listed for discussion.

December: *Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero* by Kelly J. Baptist

January: *I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day

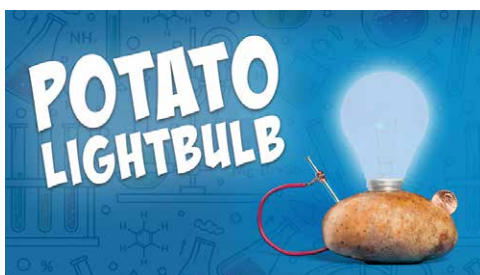
February: *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina



Sankofa Club

Tuesdays, December 15, January 19 & February 9 | 4:30 pm | Zoom

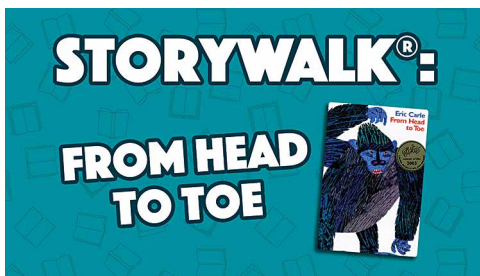
A virtually engaging club for kids in 2nd to 4th grade. We will read together, do science experiments, make creative artworks, and challenge our coding & math skills. All materials and books will be provided. **Please register to receive Zoom link.**



Potato Lightbulb

Monday, January 18 | OPEN HOURS Supply pick-up/KPL TV

Can a potato really power a lightbulb? Find out first-hand! **Register** on our website and your supplies will be ready for curbside pick-up beginning January 18. Then tune in to KPL TV for the how-to video. Paper instructions will be included with the supplies.



Storywalk®

The Oshtemo Branch Library has put up a new Storywalk® book for the months of November and December called *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle! Spend some time outside, reading and enjoying nature. Our doors are closed, but the Storywalk® is open! The Oshtemo Library is still offering a free prize book for completing the Storywalk®. The books are inside a plastic container outside the front doors of the library. **One book per child, please.**

All Ages & Family

KPL Presents: You'll Shoot Your Eye Out! with Dustin Pari

Thursday, December 10 | 6 pm | Zoom

"Oh fudge!"—*A Christmas Story* is a modern day classic. From Ralphie cursing along the roadside to the Old Man winning a major award, many can quote lines from this movie as well as the actors themselves. But the Red Ryder BB Gun, Santa, the Leg Lamp, the Pink Bunny pajamas, they are all a part of our lives in a symbolic way. This isn't just *A Christmas Story*, it is the story of our lives. So break out your Little Orphan Annie decoder pins and huddle close by when Dustin gives this presentation online. All ages welcome. **Registration required.**

Kwanzaa: A Virtual Celebration of Family, Community and Culture

Thursday, December 17 | 6:30 pm | KPL TV

Tasleem Jamila will share with us the practice of African American families observing Kwanzaa with storytelling, songs, dances, lighting candles, special foods, decorations.

Jazz Speaks for Life

Saturday, January 16 | 2-3 pm | KPL TV

The Jazz and Creative Institute faculty ensemble will be performing music by jazz composers of color to honor both the struggles and triumphs of civil rights and justice leaders of the past such as Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as honor the many individuals on the front lines of this movement in present day.



Edward Callahan in Concert

Friday, February 19 | 7 pm

Live streamed from Wellspring Theater

Kalamazoo Native and KPS/ Kalamazoo Promise graduate Edward Callahan will be streaming live from Wellspring Theater on Friday, February 19th at 7 pm. This recital kicks off the Gilmore's annual KeysFest—a day of master classes for students grades 1-12 featuring clinicians from regional universities, workshops, and more.



Virtual Events for TEENS



Paint Some Happy Trees

Tuesdays, December 1, January 5 & February 2 | 3:30-4 pm | KPL TV

Let's get creative and paint some trees, in true Bob Ross fashion. Each month will feature a different theme but will always include trees in some way. **Register online for curbside pickup location at the Central, Oshtemo, or Eastwood branches.** Instructional video will be posted online. No previous painting experience required; the goal is to have some fun and make some art, as Bob Ross always said, "We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents." **R**



Jar Gardens

Fridays, December 11, January 15 & February 12 | OPEN HOURS

Back by popular demand! Looking to create your own garden? **Register online for curbside pickup location at the Central, Oshtemo, or Eastwood branches.** **R**



Animal Crossing

**Starting Saturday, December 19
VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES | TBA**

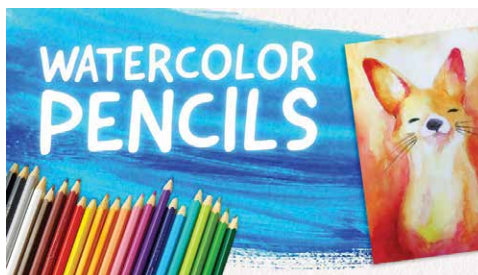
You asked, and we answered! Animal Crossing @KPL will return this winter! We're developing new islands for you to visit and look forward to seeing you virtually! More details to come. Check our website and Facebook for more information as we near winter break!



The Henry Stickmin Collection Stream

Friday, January 8 | 6-8 pm | Zoom

Join us for a two-hour long streaming session of The Henry Stickmin Collection. In this choose-your-own-adventure game, losing is just as fun as winning, with hilarious outcomes from multiple different endings. **Please register to receive Zoom link.** **R**



Watercolor Pencils

**Monday, January 11 | OPEN HOURS
Discord/Creative Bug**

Like watercolor? Like colored pencils? Then you'll love watercolor pencils! **Register** on our website and your supplies will be ready for curbside pick-up beginning January 11. We will be learning from the class that is available to us on Creativebug, which you may access anytime. Paper instructions for how to use watercolor pencils will be included with the supplies. We have a dedicated arts and crafts channel on our new Teen Discord, where we can post pictures of our progress and chat about our projects. If you are unfamiliar with Discord or Creativebug, please follow the links below for more information. **R**

Link to Discord information, please visit:

kpl.gov/teen/discord/

Link to Creativebug information, please visit:

creativebug.com/lib/kpl

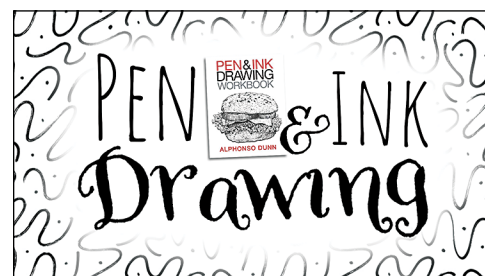


DIY Gummy Bears

Monday, February 8 | OPEN HOURS

Pick-up/KPL TV

Let's get cookin'! **Register** on our website and your supplies will be ready for curbside pick-up beginning February 8. Then tune in to KPL TV for the how-to video. Paper instructions will be included with the supplies. When registering, please use the notes field to list your flavor preference on a scale of 1-4 with 1 being your first choice. Flavors are **Orange**, **Strawberry**, **Berry Blue**, and **Cherry**. Flavors will be given out on a first come first serve basis. **IMPORTANT: This activity will require the ability to boil water. Adult supervision is strongly recommended.** **R**



Pen and Ink Drawing

Monday, February 1 | OPEN HOURS | Discord

An introductory look at pen and ink drawing; this program is for artists and learners of all levels. Each participant will receive the *Pen and Ink Drawing Workbook* by Alphonso Dunn. This program is self paced, and intended to allow you to work through each stage of learning pen and ink techniques at a speed that best works for you. There will be a Discord server dedicated to this program to allow each participant to discuss how their work is progressing, challenges, techniques they are enjoying, and compare styles. **Please register.** **R**

Read Along: Heroes of Olympus

Daily Monday through Friday with exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, & New Years Day | 4 pm | KPL TV

Read-Along is an online, daily program for kids and caregivers where a KPL librarian reads popular chapter books out loud for kids to follow along. Chapters from the selected book will be released Monday through Friday until the book is finished.



We've finished the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Join Miss Natalie to start the next series: *The Heroes of Olympus* by Rick Riordan, set in the same world as Percy Jackson and his friends. We begin with the first book in the series: *The Lost Hero*.



Virtual Events for ADULTS



Local Author Heidi McCrary

Tuesday, December 1 | 7 pm | Zoom

Inspired by a true story, *Chasing North Star* is a bittersweet tale looking back at a time when four free-range siblings, cigarettes in hand, roamed the streets 'til sunrise and hid from a gun-toting mentally ill mother who couldn't help herself. Stingray bicycles, runaway horses, and monsters in the cemetery—just another day in Alamo. That is, until the youngest sibling stumbles upon her mother's story. Hear local author Heidi McCrary read from her debut novel set near Kalamazoo. Q&A to follow. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

Coping Skills Workshop

Wednesday, December 2 | 7 pm | Zoom

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have struggled with worry, anxiety, and depression. The stress of living in isolation can result in increased risk of substance use, and jeopardizes positive mental health. Join Cope Network and the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force for a virtual, interactive workshop to learn healthy coping skills you can use anytime, anywhere. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

Page Turners Book Club

Mondays, December 7, January 4 & February 1, 6:30–7:30 pm | Zoom

Engage in a thought-provoking conversation about books, exchange perspectives, and get to know your neighbors—virtually! **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

December: *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui
January: *The Age of Light* by Whitney Scharer
February: *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu

Urban Fiction Book Club

Tuesdays, December 15, January 19 & February 9 | 6 pm | Zoom

If you love to read Urban Fiction, join us online for a fun-filled and open-minded discussion of some of the hottest titles around. All urban readers are welcome! **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

December: *The Coldest Love She's Ever Known* by Leo Sullivan
January: *Fast* by Millie Belizaire
February: *Married to a Hood Legend* by Twyla T.

For Colored Girls Book Club

Fraturdays, December 18, January 29 & February 26 | 7 pm | Zoom
A book club celebrating the beauty, strength, and power of Black, Indigenous, and phenomenal women of color around the world through literature. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

December: *More Than Enough* by Elaine Welteroth

January: *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson

February: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston



Manitou Mysteries

Thursday, January 7 | 7–8:30 pm | Zoom

Journey to the waters off the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Northern Lake Michigan and join author and shipwreck hunter Ross Richardson in exploring the histories and mysteries of the Manitou Passage, one of the deadliest areas on the great lakes. An undiscovered fleet of shipwrecked ghost-ships lies off that rugged coast, just waiting to be found. Learn their stories and explore a newly discovered mystery schooner thought to be one of the most intact shipwrecks on the planet. Richardson has spent the last two decades exploring Lake Michigan and documenting new shipwreck discoveries. He has written two books concerning Michigan history and unsolved mysteries and created the popular website michiganmysteries.com. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**

Reading Race Book Group

Tuesday, January 12 | 6:30–8 pm | Zoom

This book club, co-sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) and KPL's Antiracism Transformation Team, focuses on race and racism in American society. Join us virtually for a discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

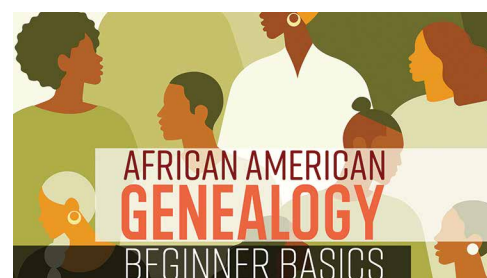
Please register to receive Zoom link. R



It's Crime We Talk: A True Crime Book Club

Tuesday, February 9 | 6:30 pm | Zoom

Have you watched every episode of *Forensic Files*, or listened to every episode of *Serial* or *My Favorite Murder*? Then join your fellow true crime enthusiasts and murderers for this true crime book club where we'll talk about our favorite books, television series, and podcasts of the genre. Join us virtually for a discussion of *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**



African American Genealogy: Beginner Basics

Thursday, February 11 | 6:30 pm | Zoom

Do you know who your ancestors are? Want to learn how to begin your family research? Searching for your African American ancestors can be challenging! This program will teach you how to start researching your family tree with library resources. **Please register to receive Zoom link. R**



National African American Read-In: Ancient African Civilizations

Tuesday, February 23 | 4–6 pm | KPL TV

The 2021 National African American Read-In hosted by the Alma Powell Branch will highlight the significance of Ancient African Civilizations. Participants will read, listen to, and share books and other materials that explore the history of African Kingdoms and Empires. A special virtual exhibit and printable study guide complements the event.

Note from the Director



Ryan Wieber
KPL Director

Winter 2020–21 activities and priorities at Kalamazoo Public Library reflect the ongoing reaction to the current health crisis. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Kalamazoo County, KPL has found it necessary to reduce in-person public services even further by going to curbside-only, with limited hours and reduced locations for the immediate future. A return to open doors and limited in-person services will occur when our area experiences a significant and sustained decrease in the local COVID positivity rate.

In the meantime, staff are working hard to make the transition to walk-up or drive-up curbside delivery as convenient as possible. Access to physical materials may not be as immediate as we typically experience, however, we will do what it takes to respond to your requests for materials, and continually look for ways to improve access and delivery of print and digital items.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- If you need a library card, register online at kpl.gov, and in a matter of minutes you can place requests on print materials or download ebooks, audios, videos and elearning content.
- Patrons whose library cards have expired or will soon expire, need not worry. Those cards have been automatically renewed and this procedure will continue through the curbside-only phase.
- Via Mail is a KPL service for patrons who are unable to travel to the library to pick up items. Requested library materials are mailed at no cost to your residence on a regular basis. Visit kpl.gov/viamail or call (269) 553-7800 to register.
- As soon as safely possible, the library will begin deploying its new Mobile Library to neighborhoods, community centers, schools, and churches to offer book distribution.
- The library has a growing collection of Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots available for lending. Simply visit the website, place a hold request, and await notification for pick-up.
- eLearning: Search the library's online catalog for new eLearning content. KPL now subscribes to LinkedIn Learning—otherwise known as Lynda.com—an incredible resource for thousands of video tutorial lessons on software and technology, creativity, and business subjects.
- Online programming options are abundant. *PRISM* cannot fully list all programs, so please visit kpl.gov to view the full lineup of winter programming. This includes quality library and community partner-produced programs for all ages and includes story times, book discussion groups, local history topics, ONEplace non-profit development trainings, and so much more! ▲



ONEplace@kpl is offering a series of webinars, virtual peer learning groups and online videos including sessions on grant writing, equity, sustainability, and more! Please visit: kpl.gov/venue/oneplacekpl-webinar/ for a list of upcoming virtual programs hosted by ONEplace@kpl staff. ▲

KPL LOCATION INFO:

CEN 553-7800
Central Library
315 S. Rose St.

EAS 553-7810
Eastwood Branch Library
1112 Gayle Ave.

OSH 553-7980
Oshtemo Branch Library
7265 W. Main St.

POW 553-7960
Alma Powell Branch Library
1000 W. Paterson St.

WSQ 553-7970
Washington Square Branch Library
1244 Portage St.

For more information, please visit kpl.gov.

2020 LIBRARY BOARD

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